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67008-066; S-5534

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A tip section assembly for a rotor blade comprising:
a tip spar section substantially C-shaped in cross section; ~~and~~
~~a splice cap mounted to an open side of said tip spar section.~~
2. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said tip spar section mounts to main blade spar.
3. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said tip spar section comprises an open side which faces a leading edge of a main rotor blade.
4. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said tip spar section comprises a first tip spar section angled relative a second tip spar section.
5. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said tip spar section defines an anhedral relative a main blade spar.
6. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising a non-structural tip skin mounted to said tip spar section.
7. (CANCELED)

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8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A tip section assembly for a rotor blade comprising:

a structural tip spar section comprising a first surface substantially parallel to a second surface, said first surface and said second surface each extending from a shear web therebetween; ~~and~~
a splice cap mounted to an open side of said tip spar section.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said tip spar section mounts to main rotor blade spar such that an open side between said first ~~planar section surface~~ and said second ~~planar section surface~~ faces a leading edge of a main rotor blade.

10. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said tip spar section defines an anhedral relative a main rotor blade spar.

11. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said tip spar section is at least partially out of a plane defined by a main rotor blade spar.

12. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 8, further comprising a non-structural tip skin mounted to said tip spar section.

13. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein said tip skin is manufactured of a three-ply fiberglass lay-up.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said first surface and said second surface are non-planar.

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16. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said first surface, said second surface and said shear web define a substantially C-shape in cross section.

17. (ORIGINAL) The tip section assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said first surface, said second surface and said shear web define a substantially U-shape in cross section.

18. (NEW) A rotor blade assembly comprising:
a structural spar section comprising a first surface and a second surface each extending from a shear web therebetween; and
a splice cap mounted to an open side of said structural spar section.

19. (NEW) The rotor blade assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein said tip spar section mounts to main rotor blade spar such that an open side between said first surface and said second surface faces a leading edge of a main rotor blade.

20. (NEW) The rotor blade assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein said first surface, said second surface and said shear web define a substantially C-shape in cross section.

21. (NEW) The rotor blade assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein said first surface, said second surface and said shear web define a substantially U-shape in cross section.

22. (NEW) The rotor blade assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein said structural spar section includes a structural tip spar section.